



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

Steve Beshear, Governor

Leonard K. Peters, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Initial Meeting of Kentucky Wood Energy Team to be held Oct. 22 ***Part of the 2nd annual Bioenergy Day celebration at Murray State***

Frankfort, Ky. (Oct. 16, 2014) – The inaugural meeting of the Kentucky Wood Energy Team will take place Oct. 22 during Murray State University's day-long celebration of National Bioenergy Day.

"Bioenergy" refers to an industry whose companies produce electricity and heat generated from wood and other organic materials.

The Kentucky Wood Energy Team, led by Tim Hughes of the Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence, is the result of grant funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

According to Hughes, the team has a great deal of work to accomplish. "This team will be the catalyst to coordinate the efforts to improve the use of woody biomass resources for energy use. Our first focus will be on helping Kentucky's poultry farmers evaluate the economics and operational aspects of bioenergy heating systems for their barns and identify the best candidates for cost-effective biomass heating options in our Appalachian region."

The celebration kicks off with lunch at 11:30 a.m. and includes a presentation by Dr. Len Peters, secretary of the Energy and Environment Cabinet. Afternoon breakout sessions will include talks by Bill McClosky of the Governor's Office of Agriculture Policy and Scott Maas of the USDA, along with many other industry experts. The wood energy team will meet at 2:45 p.m. at the Murray State Equine Center.

One highlight includes the official firing of Murray's bio burner, which was funded in part by a settlement from the Tennessee Valley Authority through the Energy and Environment Cabinet.

Murray State's Bioenergy event is free; the registration deadline is Oct. 17. To register for the day, visit www.attend.com/bioenergyday14. To learn more about National Bioenergy Day and bioenergy, visit www.bioenergyday.org.

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